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SCHOOLS

Winchester High student Lucas Yang heads to Capitol on Senate Youth Program

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT

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Winchester High School senior Lucas Yang receives a certificate for the U.S. Senate Youth Program. COURTESY PHOTO/LUCAS YANG

Being called to the principal's office usually means trouble. For L
sitting in his principal's office was nerve-racking for a different re

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Sitting there in early December, he learned he had been chosen as one of two Massachusetts students in the U.S. Senate Youth Program.

Two students from each state are chosen for the program, which sends students to the nation's capital to learn about the inner workings of the government. It starts on Saturday, March 7, and goes until March 14. Each student delegate gets a $10,000 scholarship.

Yang, a 17-year-old senior, had been interested in this program for most of high school. He's always had an interest in government and hopes to work in a public service position one day.

"I'm drawn towards [public office] because I would have a lot of interaction with community members," Yang said. "I definitely want to serve in a position where I'm able to represent a constituency."

Through every step of the application process, Yang had supporters in his corner, including his guidance counselor, Jack Burke, WHS Principal Paula Conis, student council adviser Rachelle Lane and his parents.

To Burke, Yang is a remarkable student with a variety of achievements under his belt.

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Burke has worked closely with Yang, specifically during his junior year when Yang was part of the U.S. Senate Page Program, which required him to spend half of the school year in Washington, D.C., and the other half in Winchester. He has seen Yang's dedication to his community.

"[His] sense of positivity has always fueled his interest in public [illegible] trying to make not only our schools a better and more positive pla[illegible]

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everybody, but also his local community," Burke said.

At school, Yang has taken on leadership roles. He's president of the student council this year, and he's helped start two clubs: the school's debate team and a composting club. He's co-captain of the debate team and director of the composting club.

Yang's dedication to his community extends beyond school walls and into the town.

Last summer, Yang interned with the State of the Town, a body started by the Select Board to develop a fiscal plan. Michelle Prior, chair of the Select Board, and his internship coordinator, said his curiosity and eagerness to approach tasks were what made him stand out.

Prior remembers how he walked into rooms with 25 people who were decades older than him and was not intimidated. Instead, he was thoughtful and collaborative.

While interning with the town, Yang was asked to compare Winchester's fees and revenues to those of other towns and to search for where improvements could be made.

The town manager and staff are using his findings to find areas where more revenue for the town can be made. One of the initiatives to increase building permit fees was borne from Yang's research and will be underway in April.

"I expect him to do impressive things," Prior said.

As Yang readied to go to D.C., he was excited to learn about the more human aspects behind legislation and bring back what he learns to Winchester.

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"A lot of my passion for politics really comes from my education at Winchester," Yang said. "Having grown up in Winchester all of my life, I've always felt really passionate about being involved."

Tavishi Chattopadhyay is a journalism student at Boston University. This story is part of a partnership between Winchester News and the Boston University Department of Journalism.

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SCHOOLS

Winchester's successful Science Olympiad Club competes at national-level tournaments

Winchester's Science Olympiad, like most things, began small. Yet what began as a modest club for fun, has grown into

SCHOOLS

Ambrose regains 'School of Recognition' title, principal credits school community for academic success

Everyone likes to be recogn
efforts and the Ambrose School is no

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something respected by the entire Science Olympiad community throughout the nation. Every Friday, dedicated Winchester High School students gather for two hours in weekly club meetings, to prepare for

XIYUE ERIC HAN | CORRESPONDENT

March 16, 2026

different. The school recently received an A from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), being named a School of Recognition. “It’s very exciting,” said Ambrose Principal Andrea Phelan. A School of Recognition

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SCHOOLS

Science abounds at Winchester’s Ambrose School during first in a generation fair

You could blame the Muraco School for the fact that the Ambrose cafeteria became the site of a raucously rambunctious science fair on March 5. “They were the inspiration,” said parent volunteer Karen Kinnaman, who spearheaded the event. “They put on a huge science fair every year.” Kinnaman said it’

CHRIS STEVENS | CORRESPONDENT

March 10, 2026

SCHOOLS

Winchester resident, Austin Prep student joins ‘The Movement Family’

The following was submitted by Austin Preparatory School: Brady McLaren ’26, of Winchester, spends his Wednesday nights serving others. The Austin Prep junior, who attends the independent Catholic school in Reading, travels each week with classmates to volunteer with The Movement Family, a grassroots nonprofit founded by Michael Gorman that

March 5, 2026

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NEWS

Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

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John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

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EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On

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Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

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